



# Coachmen®

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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY

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October 19, 2000

Director, Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

00V-337 (01)

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, Inc. – 2001 MY Catalina Lite 267 RDS Travel Trailers

It has been determined that a potential safety defect exists on certain 2001 MY Catalina Lite travel trailers manufactured by Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, Incorporated. The vehicles affected are Coachmen's Catalina Lite travel trailers, model number 267RDS, manufactured between August 8, 2000 and October 2, 2000.

We believe that 69 units in total are potentially affected by this defect.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

On the affected travel trailers, incorrect axle and wheel assemblies were installed. The affected units will have drop axles with 13" wheels. In some cases, depending on construction and options, the unloaded vehicle weight may exceed the carrying capacity of the tires.

## DISCOVERY OF THE DEFECT

The potential defect was discovered through a conversation with one of our dealers regarding the carrying capacity of these units. The Gross Axle Weight Rating and Federal tags affixed to the units were based upon the initial design that specified using straight axles with 15" wheels. The investigation that followed the phone call from the dealer revealed that this model was set up with a drop axle/13" tire configuration available and that, when constructed this way, the unloaded vehicle weight could exceed the 13" tire rating.

## PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT

The drop axle/13" tire option has been eliminated on this model. Engineering Change Orders have been initialized that permanently change the bill of materials for these units to remove the drop axle/13" wheels and replaces them with the straight axle/15" wheels.

All units that were in process or in company possession at the time the defect was found have been placed on hold and are being fixed.

Coachmen Recreational Vehicles Company, Inc. will supply the necessary instructions and materials for making the repairs remedy this defect. The repairs will be done by Coachmen dealers at no expense to the dealers or the retail customers.

All purchasers and dealerships who receive these units with the potential defect will be advised by mail regarding these problems. Copies of the drafts of these communications are attached. We can mail these letters and begin providing the recall remedy within 5 days of your approval.

Very Truly Yours,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLES COMPANY, INC.



Gary L. Duncan

Cc: Rick Lavers – Coachmen Industries  
Michael Terlep, Jr. – Coachmen Recreational Vehicles Company Inc.  
Jonathan D. White – Chief, Technical Analysis Branch – NHTSA  
202-366-7882/FAX

October 30, 2000

Dear Coachmen Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Coachmen RV Company has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2001 Catalina Lite 267 RDS travel trailers built from August 8, 2000 through October 13, 2000.

**SAFETY DEFECT**

On affected travel trailers, incorrect axle and wheel assemblies were installed. Affected units will have drop axles with 15" wheels. In some cases, depending on construction and options, the unloaded vehicle weight may exceed the carrying capacity of the tires. Affected units will require the installation of straight axles with 15" wheels.

**REPAIRS**

***PLEASE TAKE YOUR UNIT PROMPTLY TO THE NEAREST COACHMEN DEALER.*** At no charge to you, the Coachmen dealer will replace the axle assemblies and wheels on your travel trailer. The federal tag on your travel trailer already contains information for 15" wheels.

**REFUNDS**

If you have paid to have this service performed prior to receiving this notice you can receive a full refund. Please mail your paid original invoice or receipt to Coachmen RV Service, P.O. Box 1000, Middlebury, Indiana 46540.

**CHANGED ADDRESS OR SOLD THE VEHICLE?**

Please fill out the enclosed pre-paid postcard and mail it to us if you have changed your address or sold the vehicle.

If your dealer does not make the required repair promptly and without charge, you may contact Coachmen Customer Service at 1-800-453-6084. You also may contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 800-424-9393 or 202-366-0123.

We regret the inconvenience this situation may have caused you. However, Coachmen RV Company believes in the early detection and immediate correction of potential concerns. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY

October 30, 2000

TO: All Coachmen RV Company Dealers

RE: Safety Recall

Dear Coachmen Dealer:

Coachmen RV Company has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2001 Catalina Lite 267 RDS travel trailers built from August 8, 2000 through October 13, 2000.

On affected travel trailers, incorrect axle and wheel assemblies were installed. Affected units will have drop axles with 13" wheels. In some cases, depending on construction and options, the unloaded vehicle weight may exceed the carrying capacity of the tires. Subject units built with drop axles and 13" wheels will require the installation of straight axles with 15" wheels. Federal tags will not have to be replaced because they contain the required information for 15" wheels.

Owners of suspect units will be notified in a letter instructing them to contact their selling or nearest Coachmen dealer to schedule an appointment to have their unit repaired. A copy of this letter is attached for your reference. This action also pertains to units you may currently have in inventory.

Please find attached for your use the required repair procedure. Material handling instructions are included. Also attached is information relating to the preparation and submission of claims for reimbursement.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require assistance, please call your Regional Service Manager at 1-888-516-3569.

Sincerely,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY

Attachments